

From: Brad Rittenhouse
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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I am sending this as a concerned citizen to comment on the proposed Microsoft settlement. I am a professional software developer who has been writing software for the Windows operating system since 1994 and hold a B.S. degree in computer science.

Specifically I am concerned with the portion of the settlement that supposedly makes Microsoft publish its Windows API. I think the idea is great but the settlement defines "API" so narrowly that it would do little good to the development community. Microsoft already makes available portions of its API that allow developers to write software for Windows. The settlement defines API to mean the interface between Microsoft Middleware and Microsoft Windows. This doesn't include all other API's that Microsoft uses.

I would propose that Microsoft must make available and document all DLL (Dynamic Link Library) entry points that its software uses in ALL Microsoft products. This can be checked be easily checked by a layman to know if each function is documented, but of course would require a more experienced person to know if they did this correctly.

Please consider updating the settlement and keeping Microsoft from continuing to stifle competition and software in general.

Thank you,

-Brad Rittenhouse (bradr@sunsmoke.org)